

Filed for intro on 04/05/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 189
By Sands

A RESOLUTION To honor Lodge No. 686 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks upon the celebration of its 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the oldest and largest institutions in our Nation; founded on February 16, 1876, it has grown to include nearly 1.2 million men and women in 2,200 local Lodges throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Lodge No. 686 of Columbia was organized in April of 1901, and was chartered on July 25, 1901; this year, the local Elks are celebrating their 100th Anniversary of existence; and

WHEREAS, N. B Cheairs, F. B. Branburg, F. C. Meadors, C.N. McLemore, Gerry R. Davis, Ashby Wilkins, R. C. Adkisson, B. B. Dyers, J. M. Dedman, and W. B. Wooten collaborated to found Lodge No. 686, and in the 100 years since, the Elks have established a remarkable legacy of service to community and fraternity among members; and

WHEREAS, The Columbia Elks Lodge acquired property at 209 West 7th Street on September 7, 1914, and the Lodge, with its prominently displayed elk statue, was a landmark of

HJR0189

00508584

downtown Columbia for more than seven decades; in 1988, the Lodge was relocated to 1208 WKRM Lane, its current location; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been known for its philanthropy; the Elks' motto is "Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity"; and

WHEREAS, Lodge No. 686 has diligently followed the Elks' tradition of serving children; the Columbia Elks support the Elks National Hoop Shoot, youth baseball and soccer, and Drug Awareness Programs; and

WHEREAS, The Columbia Elks also sponsor annual scholarships for students who plan to pursue a nursing education; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, the Elks vowed that disabled American veterans would never be forgotten; Lodge No. 686 has remained faithful to that promise and makes annual contributions to support the welfare and comfort of veterans; and

WHEREAS, They also contributed to the fund for the establishment of the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C., a memorial which will serve as a reminder to all of the sacrifices made by this Nation's "Greatest Generation"; and

WHEREAS, The Order of Elks also prides itself on its Americanism and seeks to promote and safeguard the American principles of individual freedom, opportunity, and dignity; in that spirit, Lodge No. 686 contributed to the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, which has long been known around the world as the symbol of those venerable principles of Americanism; and

WHEREAS, Over the decades, the Elks have been intricately involved in numerous patriotic activities, such as the celebration of Flag Day; in 1907, the Order was the first fraternal organization to observe Flag Day on June 14, and, more than forty years later, that date was declared Flag Day by President Harry S. Truman, a member of the Order; and

WHEREAS, The present Elks of the Lodge No. 686 maintain the traditional devotion to the highest ideals of service and fraternity; the organization is known throughout Tennessee for

its astute leadership, having previously furnished the Tennessee organization with two state Presidents, William R. Stanfill and Ed Seagraves; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Lodge No. 686 is led by an honorable contingent of officers, including: Ronnie Attkisson, Exalted Ruler; David Seagraves, Leading Knight; Larry Hann, Loyal Knight; Joe Evans, Lecturing Knight; Wayne Bass, Secretary; and Darrell Hubbell, Treasurer; the Trustees for the Centennial year are Jimmy Rodgers, Thomas R. Speed, E. T. Primm, Ronnie Richardson, and Ed Lee; and

WHEREAS, For 100 years, the Elks of Lodge No. 686 have been wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the “Volunteer State”; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize and honor the members of the Lodge for their estimable service to the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we join with the members of Lodge No. 686 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in celebrating the Lodge’s 100th Anniversary and commend them for their noteworthy community service, fraternity, and fidelity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.